

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated June 28, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of dependent claim 17. Claim 17 is canceled.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 11, 14, and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,010,384 to Nishino. Claims 6-10, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishino in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,426,522 to Takahara. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishino in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,897,414 to Bergeron.

The rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-18 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-4 and 6-18 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “hardening the UV sealant other than the UV sealant on the regions where the UV sealant and at least one scribing line are crossed by irradiating a UV ray on the attached substrates with masking regions where the UV sealant and at least one scribing line are crossed, wherein the UV sealant on the regions where the UV sealant and at least one scribing line are crossed is not entirely cured... wherein forming the liquid crystal layer includes dropping at least one droplet of liquid crystal onto either one of the first and second substrate” (claim 1). None of the cited references including Nishino, Takahara, and Bergeron, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of claim 1 of the present invention is different from the Nishino structure in that Nishino discloses hardening the entire sealant surface of the substrate, not “the UV sealant on the regions where the UV sealant and at least one scribing line are crossed is not

entirely cured” as recited in claim 1. For example, Nishino discloses “the overall surface of the opposing substrate 200 is coated...with ultraviolet curing acrylic resin...The acrylic resin is then dried” (Nishino, col. 5, lines 44-48). Nishino does not disclose or suggest “hardening the UV sealant other than the UV sealant on the regions where the UV sealant and at least one scribing line are crossed” as recited in claim 1. The Examiner alleges that Nishino uses a mask such that the UV sealant overlapping the scribing lines will not be sealed, but Nishino does not in fact disclose, teach or suggest this feature as it is recited in claim 1. By way of further example, Nishino discloses a liquid crystal injection method only, not dropping as recited in claim 1. Therefore, none of cited references teaches or suggests the feature of the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-4 and 6-18, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

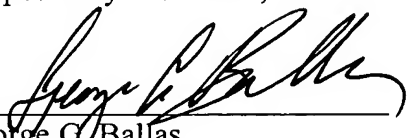
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Respectfully submitted,

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